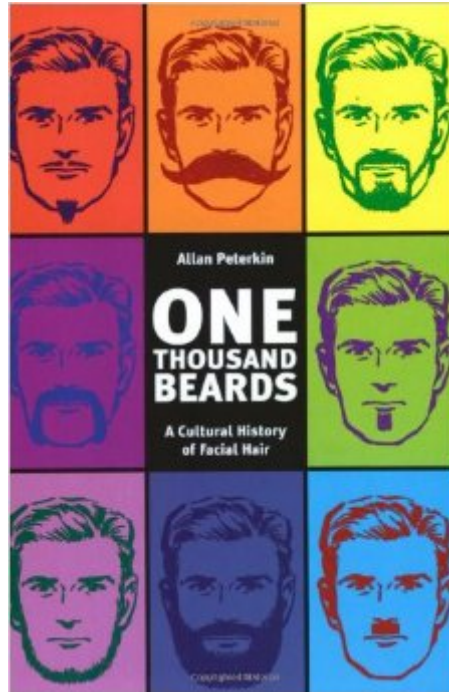


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# One Thousand Beards: A Cultural History Of Facial Hair



## Synopsis

A witty, comprehensive history of facial hair, documenting its continuous rise and fall as a trend. With style recipes, information on care and upkeep, and hundreds of pictures of famous bearded men (and women!), *One Thousand Beards* provides an insightful, light-hearted, and well-groomed look at facial hair.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #66,261 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Beauty, Grooming, & Style > Men's Grooming & Style](#) #42 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Decorative Arts & Design > Textile & Costume](#) #74 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Gender Studies > Men](#)

## Customer Reviews

Psychiatrist and writer Allan Peterkin has a playful and curious mind, and an obvious love of research. His past wanderings have taken him into the vagaries and varieties of the language of erotics, which he tackled enthusiastically - with a thesaurus, no less. The subject of beards is one that he admits he had never given much thought until one morning a few years ago. His interest was piqued, he says in his introduction to this delightful book, in "one of those perverse moments of inspiration." Walking to work in downtown Toronto, "rather than indulging my own thoughts as usual," he started noticing faces, and he then noticed that more than a third of the males were in some fashion bearded, soul patched, sideburned, mustachioed - and so it began. He wanted to uncover the meanings of facial hair, the "unconscious reasons" that men grew and tended beards, and even the "ritualistic symbolism of shaving." He wondered what women thought about beards. His survey expanded to his colleagues, his psychotherapy patients, and strap-hangers on the Toronto subway. (You might guess that he asked his friends, too.) He was off and running. This marvelous and generously-illustrated book is the result of his considerable ability to tackle his

subject with energy, brainpower, humor and a sense of fun. It's a documentary, a history, a survey, an appreciation, and a catalogue. There are hundreds of black and white illustrations, and topical quotations from famous and not so famous beard-wearers. Chapter 6 deals with the (usually) unwanted thing: "The Feminine Beard." The compulsory beard (the Taliban being a recent and dramatic example of mandatory beardedness) is examined, too - in a chapter on religious beards.

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